

# Fort Massey Church

Spiritual Seekers **United** in Community

5303 Tobin Street, Halifax, NS B3H 1S3

Office: 902-423-4294 [ftmassey@eastlink.ca](mailto:ftmassey@eastlink.ca)

Minister: 902-333-3123 [minister@fortmasseychurch.com](mailto:minister@fortmasseychurch.com)  
[www.fortmasseychurch.com](http://www.fortmasseychurch.com)

Ministers: All of us by the grace of God

Clergy: Rev. Beth Hayward

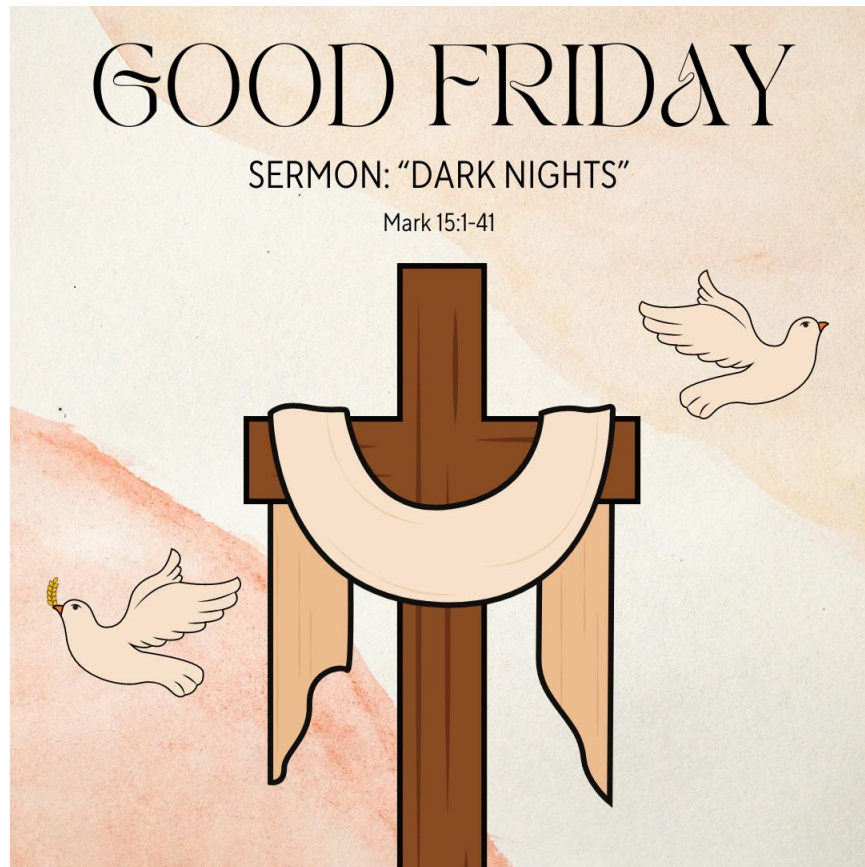
Music Director: Jenny Trites

Sexton: Emily Kiley Lawlor

Section Leads: Laura Johnston, Lisa Thornhill

Scripture Reader: Mary MacDermind

Greeters: The Janson Family



**March 29, 2024, 10:30 a.m.**

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



United against Racism



MISSION AND  
SERVICE FUND

*\* Indicates rise in body or spirit  
(please stand or remain sitting according to your comfort.)*

**Prelude**

**Introit:** "Veni Sancte Spiritus" MV 75

**Welcome, Land Acknowledgement & Call to Worship**

**\*Hymn:** "Were You There" VU 144

**Lighting of the Christ Candle & Opening Prayer**

**\*Hymn:** "God Weeps" MV 78

**Scripture:** Mark 15:1-41

**Ministry of Music:** "I thought By Now"

**Sermon:** "Dark Nights"

**Sung Response:** "Don't Be Afraid" MV 90

*Don't be afraid, my love is stronger  
My love is stronger than your fear.  
Don't be afraid, my love is stronger  
And I have promised, promised to be always near. (Repeat)*

**Cross Ritual**

**Prayers of the People**

**Hymn:** "Stay With Us Through the Night" VU 182

**Blessing and Sending Forth**

**\*Sung Blessing:** "Let Us, O God, Depart in Peace" VU 961

## Join us for our Easter service at 10:30 am Sunday, March 31st

Blessings and our best wishes to all who are celebrating birthdays, anniversaries or other milestones this week. Likewise, if you're walking through some difficulty this week: grief, anxiety, challenge, we hold you in prayer.

A special welcome to all who are worshipping here for the first time. We strive to notice you and make you feel welcome.

Do let us know if we fall short of our aspiration. We know that stepping into a new church can be daunting.

If, after you leave, you find questions, curiosities, or insights arising, you are most welcome to reach out to our minister Rev. Beth ([minister@fortmasseychurch.com](mailto:minister@fortmasseychurch.com)).

Please feel comfortable to sit, stand, stretch, move for your own self-care and comfort. Our services are generally an hour in length. When the Postlude begins, please feel free to get up and chat. We offer a pretty great coffee hour. Following the service, make your way to the front of the church and down the stairs and you'll be greeted by warm hospitality and terrific snacks!

### ***Why do we encourage name tags be worn?***

In a spirit of **radical welcome**, we encourage **everybody** to wear a name tag today.

**Name tags** help us recognize and remember each other.

They are a small gesture appreciated by those learning many names at once; those who are deaf or hard of hearing; or those who struggle to match names with faces.

If you are **comfortable** doing so, consider adding your **pronouns**.

Sharing **pronouns** is a signal that we welcome those of **all genders** and we appreciate knowing how to speak of each other **respectfully**.

### **Thank You for Your Financial Support**

We thank you for your financial support of Fort Massey. Whether using e-transfer to [fmchurch@eastlink.ca](mailto:fmchurch@eastlink.ca), PAR, cheque or envelopes, all are so appreciated. Donations may also be made through the following online charity donation websites: CanadaHelps - <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/fort-massey-united-church/> or Charitable Impact: <https://my.charitableimpact.com/charities/fort-massey-united-church>. In the sanctuary, donations can be made as you leave after worship. Offering plates are located by the font, if exiting to Tobin Street, or in the aisle as you exit into the Queen Street lobby.

### **Fort Massey Vision Statement**

At Fort Massey, we live into being a vibrant and evolving community where tradition is honoured, change is embraced, and injustice is challenged, where everyone is welcomed, needed, valued and belongs. Following Jesus' example of expansive love, we aim to provide a safe, nurturing environment where everyone is free to be themselves. We celebrate and encourage people of every age, health situation, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, family configuration, background, ability, interest, culture, economic circumstance and faith journey into the full participation and leadership of ministries in the life and work of Fort Massey United Church.

**Welcome to Fort Massey.** We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, straight, gay, confused, well-heeled or down at heel. We especially welcome wailing babies and excited toddlers. We welcome you whether you can sing like Pavarotti or just growl quietly to yourself. You're welcome here if you're 'just browsing', just woken up or just got out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Moderator of the United Church of Canada or haven't been to church since Christmas ten years ago. We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, hockey dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps or don't like 'organized religion.' (We're not that keen on it either!) We offer a welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or are here because granny is visiting and wanted to come to the ol' Kirk. We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both or neither. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throat as kids or got lost on the Armdale roundabout and wound up here by mistake. We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters... and you!

*(adapted and used with permission, Coventry Cathedral, England)*